



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Attorney Docket No: 37697-0033

Applicant(s): Edward W. MERRILL et al. Confirmation No.: 8881  
Serial No.: 09/764,445 Examiner: Duc Truong  
Filing Date: January 19, 2001 Group Art Unit: 1711  
Title: RADIATION AND MELT TREATED ULTRA HIGH MOLECULAR WEIGHT POLYETHYLENE PROSTHETIC DEVICES

**AMENDMENT AND REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION**  
**UNDER 37 CFR § 1.111**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Applicants herein respond to the Office Action mailed May 28, 2004 (Paper No. 16). Applicants respectfully request entry of the following amendments to the application and request reconsideration of the rejections of record in view of the following remarks.

Applicants petition for a three-month extension of time, as well as any other needed extensions, and provide the requisite fee herewith. Please debit any underpayments, or credit any overpayments, to firm deposit account no. 08-1641.

Applicants request that Examination of this the application be conducted with the "special dispatch" required by MPEP §§ 708.01(F), 2307.